

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended): A filter cigarette comprising a tobacco rod wrapped in a wrapper and a filter made of filtration material joined thereto forming a joint abutment, said filtration material of said filter being wrapped along the length thereof only in a first tipping paper which is in direct contact with said filtration material, and a strip of material covering said joint abutment and only areas closely adjacent said joint abutment of the tobacco rod and the filter, thus connecting the filter and tobacco rod, wherein the inherent permeability of the first tipping paper is 50-500 CU.
2. (Currently Amended): A filter cigarette according to claim 1, wherein the strip of material is a second tipping paper.
3. (Original): A filter cigarette according to claim 1, wherein the strip of material is a foil material.
4. (Previously Presented): A filter cigarette according to claim 1, wherein the strip of material is printed or imprinted.
5. (Previously Presented): A filter cigarette according to claim 1, wherein the strip of

material has a width of 4 to 12 mm.

6. (Original): A filter cigarette according to claim 5, wherein the strip of material has a width of 6 to 10 mm.

7. (Previously Presented): A filter cigarette according to claim 1, wherein the strip of material extends over a maximum of 20% of the length of filter.

8. (Original): A filter cigarette according to claim 7, wherein the strip of material extends over less than 15% of the length of filter.

9. (Previously Presented): A filter cigarette according to claim 1, wherein the degree of coverage of the strip of material interattaching the filter and tobacco rod is equal.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended): A filter cigarette according to claim 1, wherein the basis weight of the first tipping paper is 25-45 g/m².

13. (Previously Presented): A filter cigarette according to claim 1, wherein the tobacco rod wrapper is a wrapper comprising a particulate ceramic filler of predefined shape and a binder, with optional ash improver and/or burn additive.

14. (Original): A filter cigarette according to claim 13, wherein the ceramic filler is present in the range of 50-95% by weight of the wrapper.

15. (Previously Presented): A filter cigarette according to claim 13, wherein the ceramic filler has a particle size in the range of 2-90 μm .

16. (Original): A filter cigarette according to claim 15, wherein the ceramic filler has a mean particle size of about 50 μm .

17. (Previously Presented): A filter cigarette according to claim 13, wherein the ceramic filler is alumina or another similar thermally stable metal oxide or metal salt.

18. (Currently Amended): A method of reducing filter-tip cigarette manufacturing cost, the method comprising providing batches of double filters made of filtration material and wrapped along their length only in a tipping paper having an inherent permeability of 50-500 CU and

which is in direct contact with said filtration material and each batch of wrapped double filters being sourced from the same filter making machine, and supplying the batches of such wrapped double filters to respective filter tip assembly machines capable of producing a double cigarette assembly of a double filter positioned between two wrapped tobacco rods, each filter tip assembly machine utilizing two narrow strips of material to interattach the double filter and two wrapped tobacco rods, cutting the double filter to provide two filter tip cigarettes, and thereby producing batches of filter tip cigarettes from a plurality of filter tip assembly machines.

19. (Currently Amended): A method of producing filter tip cigarettes comprising a filter made of filtration material wrapped only in a tipping paper having an inherent permeability of 50-500 CU and which is in direct contact with said filtration material, and a tobacco rod wrapped in a wrapper, the tipping paper of the filter having particulate material attached thereto, the method comprising the steps of supplying filter tow to a filter making machine, supplying the tipping paper having an inherent permeability of 50-500 CU to a particulate material applying station located at the filter making machine, at which station particulate material is attached to the tipping paper, wrapping the filter tow with the treated tipping paper along the length thereof and cutting the wrapped filter tow into unit filter lengths, thereafter supplying the cut lengths to a filter tip assembly machine to produce filter tip cigarettes.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Canceled).

22. (Canceled).

23. (Canceled).

24. (Canceled).

25. (Canceled).

26. (Canceled).

27. (Canceled).

28. (Currently Amended): A filter cigarette according to claim 1, wherein a particulate material is applied at a predetermined location on said first tipping paper.

29. (Previously Presented): A filter cigarette according to claim 28, wherein said particulate material is one or more of activated charcoal, activated carbon and molecule sieves.

30. (Canceled).

31. (Previously Presented): A filter cigarette according to claim 1, wherein the basis weight of the strip of material is in the range of 20-50 g/m².